

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 MMO-04 AID-05 IGA-02
EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00 OES-07 OMB-01 DIWY-01 CU-04
CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02 USIA-15
PRS-01 SP-02 L-03 /098 W
-----311441Z 004001 /46

R 311027Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6748
INFO USMISSION GENEVA
AMCONSUL MONTREAL
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY VIENNA

UNCLAS PORT LOUIS 0586

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ECRP EAID UNDP MP
SUBJECT: CERP 0008 -UNDP: EVALUATION OF UN-ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
MAURITIUS

REF: STATE 72386, MARCH 26, 1976

1. FOLLOWING EVALUATION UNDP PROGRAM IN MAURITIUS IS KEYED TO
REFTEL:

A. THE UNDP RESREP COORDINATES ALL UN PROGRAMS IN MAURITIUS. HE IS
AN EXPERIENCED, SENIOR UNDP OFFICER WHO HAS RECENTLY ARRIVED IN
MAURITIUS. HE MAINTAINS CLOSE RELATIONS WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF
MAURITIUS THROUGH THE ECONOMIC PLANNING UNIT (EPU) LOCATED WITHIN
THE MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT. HE ALSO
MAINTAINS CONTACT WITH ALL OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND
EMBASSIES IN MAURITIUS. THE RESREP TOLD EMBOFF THAT THE IBRD
IS CONSULTED DURING THE PRESENTATION OF THE COUNTRY PROGRAMMING.
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RESREP STATED THAT BECAUSE OF SIZE OF MAURITIUS AND THE UN
PROGRAMS HERE, HIS STAFF IS ABLE TO DEAL WITH THE WORK LOAD.

B. UNDP RESREP PARTICIPATES IN INFORMAL COORDINATION MECHANISM
FOR BILATERAL PROGRAMS. AID REPS FROM THE VARIOUS WESTERN
EMBASSIES (INCLUDING INDIA) MEET MONTHLY FOR AN INFORMAL
LUNCHEON REVIEW OF THEIR PROGRAMS. USSR AND PRC DECLINE TO

PARTICIPATE AND THE US HAS NOT PARTICIPATED DUE TO LACK OF AID PROGRAM OF ANY SIZE. THE ECONOMIC PLANNING UNIT (EPU) IS THE UNDP'S POINT OF CONTACT WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF MAURITIUS. THE RESREP STATED THAT HE WAS PLEASED WITH THE DEGREE OF SUPPORT THE EPU HAS GIVEN HIM SINCE HIS ARRIVAL.

C. UNDP COUNTRY PROGRAMMING IS NOW FIGURED ON A YEARLY BASIS, RATHER THAN A FIVE YEAR BASIS. THIS IS DUE TO THE FINANCIAL RESTRAINTS IMPOSED ON THE UNDP WORLD WIDE. THE UNDP PROGRAM FOR MAURITIUS WAS CUT BY TWO MILLION DOLLARS, FROM SEVEN MILLION TO UNDER FIVE MILLION DOLLARS IN FISCAL YEAR 1975-76. SEVERAL PROGRAMS THAT UNDP HAD BEEN FORCED TO DROP WERE TAKEN OVER BY BILATERAL AID PROGRAMS. ALL EMPHASIS IS BEING PLACED ON CONTINUING EXISTING PROGRAMS RATHER THAN BEGINNING NEW PROGRAMS THAT WOULD FORCE OTHER PROGRAMS TO BE CUT DUE TO A LACK OF FUNDS.

D. UNDP AND EPU WORK CLOSELY ON PREPARATION OF COUNTRY PROGRAMS FOR MAURITIUS, EPU SUGGESTS PROGRAMS AND CONCEPTS THAT UNDP RESREP REVIEWS TO DETERMINE IF THEY FALL IN THE UNDP PURVIEW OR IF THEY WOULD BE BETTER HANDLED THROUGH BILATERAL AID CHANNELS. ONGOING PROGRAMS ARE REVIEWED CONSTANTLY TO DETECT AND CORRECT PROBLEM AREAS IN SPECIFIC PROGRAMS BEFORE THE ENTIRE PROGRAM IS INDANGERED.

3. EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT UNDP PROGRAMS ARE BOTH EFFECTIVE AND RELEVANT TO MAURITIUS'S DEVELOPMENT. IN PART THIS IS DUE TO FACT THAT PROGRAMS ARE NOT IMPOSED ON MAURITIUS FROM OUTSIDE,
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BUT COME FROM GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE SECTOR SUGGESTIONS. FINANCIAL STRICTURES LAST YEAR FORCED UNDP TO DROP SEVERAL MARGINAL PROGRAMS (SEE PORT LOUIS 0353, 23 APRIL 1976), AND RESREP CONSIDERS NONE OF THE PRESENT PROGRAMS MARGINAL. SOME OF UNDP'S MORE IMPORTANT PROGRAMS ARE: (1) A MILLION DOLLAR PROGRAM (ACTUAL ASSISTANCE COMMITTED IN 1976 US DOLLARS 1,023,560) TO PROVIDE SEVEN EXPERTS, EQUIPMENT AND FELLOWSHIPS TO THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND THE UNIVERSITY OF MAURITIUS. (2) US DOLLARS 51,511 ACTUAL ASSISTANCE WAS COMMITTED IN 1976 TO THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND THE UNIVERSITY OF MAURITIUS TO PROVIDE AN EXPERT AND EQUIPMENT FOR TRAINING IN ENVIRONMENTAL AND OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH. (3) ACTUAL ASSISTANCE TOTALLING US DOLLARS 417,789 WAS COMMITTED IN 1976 FOR FAMILY PLANNING SERVICES. THE ASSISTANCE WAS FOR EQUIPMENT, DRUGS, CONTRACEPTIVES, AND TRAINING ASSISTANCE. (4) IN THE FIELD OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL POLICY PLANNING THE MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT RECEIVED AID EQUIVALENT TO US DOLLARS 38,231 IN 1976. THIS WAS TO SUPPORT AN ECONOMIC ADVISER TO THE MINISTRY. (5) THE MAURITIUS PORT AUTHORITY WAS PROGRAMED FOR ACTUAL

ASSISTANCE EQUAL TO US DOLLARS 90,000 IN 1976 TO SUPPORT TWO
TECHNICAL ADVISORS.

F. EMBOFF HAS DISCUSSED FULL LIST OF PROJECTS WITH FORMER UNDP
PROGRAMMER, WHO WAS ACTING RESREP. INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS WITH
RESREP ARE HELD FROM TIME TO TIME. UNDP PROFESSIONALISM IS
EVIDENT IN ALL COUNTRY PROGRAM PLANNING.

G. GOVERNMENT OF MAURITIUS THROUGH ECONOMIC PLANNING UNIT HAS
PROPOSED NO PROGRAMS SPECIFICALLY TO ACHIEVE TWIN OBJECTIVES
DESCRIBED REFTEL PARA G (WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT). WOMEN DO
PARTICIPATE IN FORMULATING MAURITIAN EDUCATIONAL, HEALTH AND
MEDIA POLICIES. UNDP IS WILLING TO SUPPORT ANY REALISTIC
PROGRAMS SUGGESTED BY THE EPU TO HELP WOMEN.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CERP 0008, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 31-May-1977 12:00:00 am
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977PORTL00586
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770193-0256
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From: PORT LOUIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t1977052/aaaaabob.tel
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Litigation Code IDs:
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Litigation History:
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Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 72386
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
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Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2377310
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CERP 0008 -UNDP: EVALUATION OF UN-ASSISTANCE PROGRAM MAURITIUS
TAGS: ECRP, EAID, MP, UNDP
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/0163498a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009